

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT MANILA 10337 ACTION SECSTATE DATED JUNE 20, 1978.

QUOTE: UNCLAS MANILA 10337

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PDIP, RP
SUBJECT: ROMULO PROMISES PROSECUTION IN NEW YORK INCIDENT

REF: MANILA 10274

1. FOREIGN MINISTER ROMULO, IN A JUNE 19 PRESS STATEMENT REPORTED IN TWO MANILA DAILIES JUNE 20, SAID "WE WILL PROSECUTE THE POLICE OFFICERS WHO COMMITTED ACTS OF BRUTALITY THAT OUR PEOPLE INDIGNANTLY RESENT, AND THE ONLY REDRESS THAT WE CAN ACCEPT IS PUNITIVE ACTION AGAINST THOSE GUILTY OF HAVING BY THEIR ACTS DEBASED HUMAN DIGNITY." ROMULO ALSO REJECTED THE NEW YORK POLICE'S ACCOUNT OF THE INCIDENT, SAYING IT IS CONTRADICTED BY THE "EVIDENCE IN OUR HANDS, AND IT IS A CLEAR CASE OF BLATANT VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS." HE ADDED, "I HAVE READ THE NEW YORK POLICE VERSION IN CONNECTION WITH THE OUTRAGE... AND, HAVING BEEN A POLICE REPORTER IN MY YOUNGER YEARS, I KNOW HOW SLY THE POLICE CAN BE IN TRYING TO JUSTIFY THEIR
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MISDEEDS AS HAS BEEN SHOWN MANY TIMES IN COURT HERE AND IN THE UNITED STATES." "TIMES JOURNAL" AND "BULLETIN TODAY" CARRY THE STORY; "DAILY EXPRESS," EXCEPT FOR BRIEF TREATMENT BY COLUMNIST VALENCIA, HAS DROPPED THE SUBJECT.

2. "EVENING POST," FREQUENTLY THE MOST STRONGLY ANTI-AMERICAN OF MANILA DAILIES, CARRIED A FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL

ON THE INCIDENT JUNE 19. THE EDITORIAL STRUCK THE FAMILIAR HUMAN RIGHTS, NATIONAL HONOR AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION CHORDS, CONCLUDING: "THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT BE CONTENT WITH AN APOLOGY FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. THIS MUST BE GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTED, BUT WE STRONGLY FEEL THAT WE MUST PRESS FOR THE DISMISSAL OF THE POLICEMEN INVOLVED, NOT ONLY AS RECOMPENSE BUT IN ORDER TO PROTECT IN FUTURE OTHER FILIPINOS OR MEMBERS OF MINORITIES WHOM THESE SAME POLICEMEN MAY HAVE OCCASION TO OPPRESS AND MANHANDLE. FINALLY, TO GAIN FULL SATISFACTION, THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT MUST PRESS CHARGES AGAINST THE POLICEMEN IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY JUSTLY PAY FOR WHAT THEY HAD SO DELIBERATELY AND BRUTALLY DONE TO THEIR VICTIMS AND TO THE HONOR OF THIS COUNTRY." MURPHY UNQUOTE VANCE

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